

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Final Office Action mailed May 19, 2005 in the above-identified application. The Amendment places the application in condition for allowance and does not raise new issues or require extensive consideration. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7-24 were previously pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 12, 17 and 18 are amended. Claims 11, 15 and 20-24 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-14, 16, 17 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Gerpheide (U.S. 5,305,017). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Gerpheide in view of Tschudi et al. (U.S. 6,785,407). Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Gerpheide in view of Senior (U. S. 6,400,836). Claim 15 is indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The limitations of claim 11 and allowable claim 15 have been incorporated into amended claim 1. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-14, 16 and 17 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 11 and allowable claim 15. Accordingly, amended claim 18 is in condition for allowance. Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, all claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee

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occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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